UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>*12/04/07*</u>.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>*04 December 2007*</u> is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some *   c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The amendment filed on 04 December 2007 have been received and entered. The

applicant has added new claims 11-13. Claims 1-13 as amended are pending in the

application.

Claim Objections

2.   Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1 lacks

antecedent basis support for the limitation "the dialog box", recited in line 3. Appropriate

correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-3 and 5-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Wolber et al. U.S. Patent 5,261,043 (hereinafter "Wolber") and Elsbree WO

99/66651.

Referring to claim 1, Wolber teaches a method comprising automatically

generating a dialog box (the system generates the display of the dialog box 302 shown in

Figure 3) (Wolber: column 4, lines 38-67); selecting at least one data element to be

displayed from the data that is transmitted in the dialog box (data "454" is selected, i.e.

displayed in box 302- field 310, as shown in Figure 3) (Wolber: column 4, lines 38-67);

indicating a memory address of the data element (the input data "454 is output and

connected as input to another data via connection 210, as shown in Figure 3) (Wolber:

column 4, lines 40-53); and assigning the transmitted data that is to be displayed to

certain, stored data types (network programming data that is transmitted has a data type,

which is converted to a stored, i.e. accepted data type) (Wolber: column 2, lines 27-40

and 63-68); and automatically generating the at least one display box on the operator

interface of the computer user station so as to display the data to be displayed utilizing

display types that are respectively assigned to the data types (the box shown in Figure 3

displays the data being input into the input terminal according to data types; specifically,

the input data shown in Figure 3 is a "Real Number" data type, therefore, the box 204

shown in Figure 3 utilizes the display type associated with the "Real Number" data type,

i.e. displaying the data as a real number "454") (Wolber: column 4, lines 38-67).

However, although Wolber teaches the display of transmitted data, Wolber fails to

explicitly teach the transmitted data is data of an industrial process installation. Elsbree

teaches a graphical user interface that displays transmitted data according to data types

(Figure 4 shows the display of the computed data via display types such as bars, i.e.

reference character 72 and pointers, i.e. reference character 78'; Figure 5 further shows

the display of the received process control data from the machine as digital numerical

outputs represented on output 88) (Elsbree: page 2, lines 12-27 and page 9, line 28 – page

11, line 30) similar to that of Wolber. In addition, Elsbree further teaches the display of

process installation data (a computer and machine equipment are connected to allow them

to communicate process control information) (Elsbree: page 2, lines 12-27). It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Wolber and

Elsbree before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the method for

transmitting data and displaying data according to display types assigned to data types for

the transmitted data of Wolber to include the transmission and display of data according

to data types for industrial installation process data, as taught by Elsbree. One would

have been motivated make such a combination in order to ease the task of connecting to

and controlling a machine to allow communication between the control computer and

machine according to a standard communication protocol (Elsbree: page 1, line 19 –

column 2, line 5 and column 2, lines 7-14).

Referring to claim 2, Wolber, as modified, teach wherein the data is selected from

the group consisting of process data, status data, control data and regulating data (a

computer and machine are connected to allow them to communicate process control

information between each other) (Elsbree: page 2, lines 12-27); and wherein the display

types are selected from the group consisting of pointers, bars, and numerical displays

(Figure 4 shows the display of the computed data via display types such as bars, i.e.

reference character 72 and pointers, i.e. reference character 78'; Figure 5 further shows

the display of the received process control data from the machine as digital numerical

outputs represented on output 88) (Elsbree: page 2, lines 12-27 and page 9, line 28 – page

11, line 30).

Referring to claim 3, Wolber, as modified, teach wherein the display box is

retrieved on the operator interface of the computer user station via a link identifier of a

further display box (user selection of links, i.e. selection of buttons on a box leads to the display of a further, i.e. a new box) (Wolber: column 6, lines 58-64).

Referring to claim 5, Wolber, as modified, teach wherein the further display box is created via a supporting graphics program (the displayed information is achieved via a graphical program, i.e. iconic programming) (Wolber: column 1, lines 40-44, column 2, lines 27-31 and further shown in Figures 1 and 4).

Referring to claim 6, Wolber, as modified, teach wherein the transmitted data that is to be displayed is selected from the transmitted data of the process installation (a computer and machine are connected to allow them to communicate process control information via computed values and control signals; information at the actual hardware device can be transmitted and output to be displayed in certain data types on the computer) (Elsbree: page 2, lines 12-27 and page 9, line 28 – page 11, line 30).

Referring to claim 7, Wolber, as modified, teach modifying the assignment of the data types and the display types (information on the Input Terminal Information dialog box 304 shown in Figure 3 can be modified via user selection and input to change the selected parameters) (Wolber: column 5, lines 3-47).

Referring to claim 8, Wolber, as modified, teach modifying a number and a type of the display types (information on the Input Terminal Information dialog box 304 shown in Figure 3 can be modified via user selection and input to change the selected parameters; displayed parameters include the type and number/data of the signal attributes) (Wolber: column 5, lines 3-47).

Referring to claim 9, Wolber, as modified, teach modifying a number and a type of the data types (information on the Input Terminal Information dialog box 304 shown

in Figure 3 can be modified via user selection and input to change the selected

parameters; displayed parameters include the type and number/data of the signal

attributes) (Wolber: column 5, lines 3-47).

Referring to claim 10, Wolber teach a method comprising assigning data to

respective data types stored in the computer (network programming data that is

transmitted has a data type, which is converted to a stored, i.e. accepted data type)

(Wolber: column 2, lines 27-40 and 63-68); assigning the data types to respective display

types (the input data shown in Figure 3 is a "Real Number" data type, therefore, the

dialog box shown in Figure 3 utilizes the display type associated with the "Real Number"

data type, i.e. displaying the corresponding labels under "Type", "Shape", and "Data")

(Wolber: column 4, lines 38-67); and automatically generating at least one display box on

a graphical user interface of the computer so as to display the data on the graphical user

interface with the data types and the display types (the box shown in Figure 3 displays the

data being input into the input terminal according to data types; specifically, the input

data shown in Figure 3 is a "Real Number" data type, therefore, the dialog box shown in

Figure 3 utilize the display type associated with the "Real Number" data type, i.e.

displaying the corresponding labels under "Type", "Shape", and "Data") (Wolber:

column 4, lines 38-67). However, although Wolber teaches the display of transmitted

data, Wolber fails to explicitly teach data transmitted from a technical facility to a

computer. Elsbree teaches a graphical user interface that displays transmitted data

according to data types (Figure 4 shows the display of the computed data via display

types such as bars, i.e. reference character 72 and pointers, i.e. reference character 78';

Figure 5 further shows the display of the received process control data from the machine

as digital numerical outputs represented on output 88) (Elsbree: page 2, lines 12-27 and

page 9, line 28 – page 11, line 30) similar to that of Wolber. In addition, Elsbree further

teaches the display of data transmitted from a technical facility to a computer (a computer

and machine equipment are connected to allow them to communicate process control

information) (Elsbree: page 2, lines 12-27). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Wolber and Elsbree before him at the

time the invention was made, to modify the method for transmitting data and displaying

data according to display types assigned to data types for the transmitted data of Wolber

to include the transmission and display of data according to data types for industrial

installation process data, as taught by Elsbree. One would have been motivated make

such a combination in order to ease the task of connecting to and controlling a machine to

allow communication between the control computer and machine according to a standard

communication protocol (Elsbree: page 1, line 19 – column 2, line 5 and column 2, lines

7-14).

Referring to claim 11, Wolber, as modified, teach wherein the data types define

various types of data present in the installation process and wherein the transmitted data

is categorized into one of the data types (data that is transmitted is categorized, i.e.

converted to an accepted data type; the data types define various types of data such as

"Int", "Real", "Text", etc., as shown in Figure 3) (Wolber: column 2, lines 27-40 and 63-

68).

Referring to claim 12, Wolber, as modified, teach wherein the assignments

between the data types and the display types are pre-stored in the computer user station

(information are pre-stored, i.e. input data is converted to already stored/acceptable types,

and correspondingly displayed) (Wolber: column 2, lines 37-40 and column 5, lines 3-20).

Referring to claim 13, Wolber, as modified, teach a user modifying the pre-stored assignments between the data types and the display types (information on the Input Terminal Information box 304 shown in Figure 3 can be modified via user selection and input to change the selected parameters) (Wolber: column 5, lines 3-47).

4.   Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolber et al. U.S. Patent 5,261,043 (hereinafter "Wolber") and Elsbree WO 99/66651, as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Tadokoro et al. U.S. Publication 2002/0156969 (hereinafter "Tadokoro").

Referring to claim 4, Wolber and Elsbree teaches all of the limitations as applied to claims 1 and 3 above. However, Wolber and Elsbree fail to explicitly teach the display box is assigned to a library stored in the computer user station. Tadokoro teaches a graphical user interface for displaying information similar to that of Wolber and Elsbree. In addition, Tadokoro further teaches the display box is assigned to a library stored in the computer user station (box 290 is associated with the library system of the computer) (Tadokoro: page 20, paragraph 0346). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Wolber, Elsbree and Tadokoro before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the dialog box for displaying transmitted installation data via assigned display types of Wolber and Elsbree to include the association of the dialog box with a library as taught by Tadokoro. One would have been

motivated to make such a combination in order to provide a centralized place, such as a

type of database system, for fast and easily storing and locating information.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 12/04/07 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

6.   The examiner respectfully notes that although the examiner contacted the

applicant's representative, Nataliya Dvorson (Reg. No. 56,616), on March 14, 2008 to

indicate allowable subject matter and propose an examiner's amendment, upon further

examination of the claim language and prior art, it appears that the prior art still renders

the claim limitations obvious.

7.   The applicant argues that Wolber discloses converting data to another data type

and not assigning the transmitted data to a stored data type. The examiner respectfully

disagrees. Wolber states that "Yet another aspect of the present invention is to provide

methods to automatically convert data to an acceptable type and shape...", on column 2,

lines 37-39. Therefore, Wolber teaches that the system comprises stored, i.e. acceptable

data types. Furthermore, the examiner respectfully argues that converting data from one

type to another assigns the data to the new type; in other words, when the transmitted

data is converted to the stored acceptable type, the transmitted data is now assigned to the

stored acceptable type.

8.   The applicant further argues that the dialog box in Wolber is not automatically

generated, but instead it is generated as a result of a user request to display the constraints

for an input terminal. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Once the user requests a

dialog box, the dialog box is automatically created and displayed *by the system*, i.e. the

dialog box is not manually created by the user. In other words, once the user requests the

display of the box using the pointing device to click on a menu item, the system takes that

request and automatically displays the dialog box on the screen (column 4, lines 41-49).

Box 204 further shows the display of the data, i.e. "Real Number 454" in Figure 3.

9.   In view of the above, the examiner respectfully maintains that the combination of

Wolber and Elsbree teach the subject limitations.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

        A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than

SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TING ZHOU whose telephone number is (571)272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow can be reached on (571) 272-7767. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TZ

/Dennis-Doon Chow/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2173